

BREAD & PUPPET



THE CITY-OF-
BROTHERLY-LOVE
PASSION PLAY

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THE CITY-OF-BROTHERLY-
LOVE PASSION PLAY

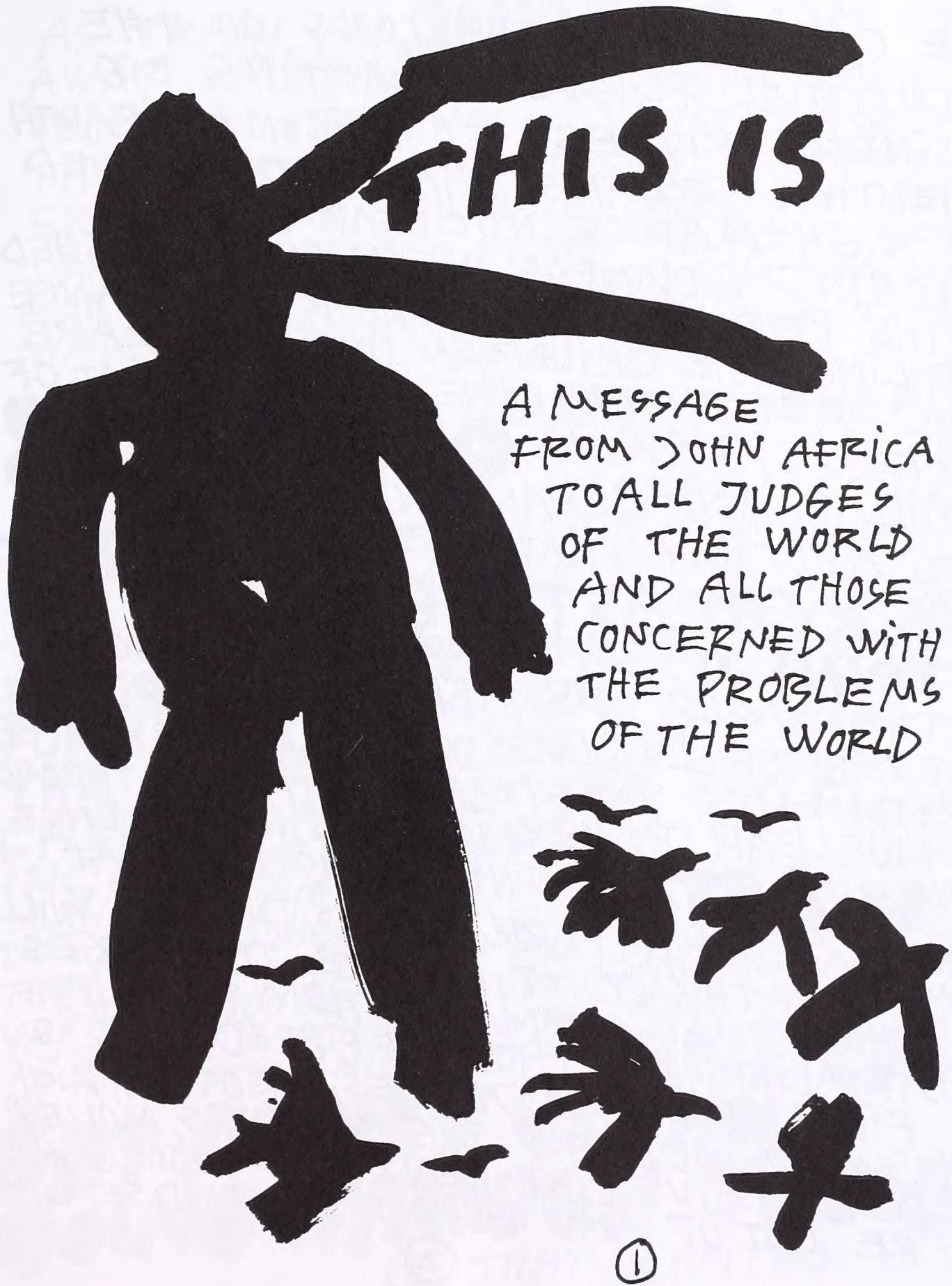
VERSE BY
BURT PORTER

1998



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THE COURTS ARE THE TOOLS OF THE
INDUSTRIAL PLAGUE GRANTING BIG
BUSINESS PRIVILEGE TO POISON OUR EARTH
SCIENTIFIC DREAMS THAT HAVE TURNED
TO NIGHTMARES, NUCLEAR PLANTS
BELCHING SICKNESS, WEAK LUNGS, PUSHED
ON THE PEOPLE DESPITE THEIR RESISTANCE
CRIPPLING OUR CHILDREN UNTIL THEY ARE
DEAD, REFORMING LIFE'S WAY TO THAT OF
A SCIENCE, TAKING **OUR WATER**
FAMILIAR AND CLEAN AND TURNING IT
INTO A POISON THAT'S POISON, **AIR THAT**
WAS RIGHT AS THE GOD THAT
SUSTAINS IT IS NOW STRANGULATION TO
ALL THAT MUST BREATHE IT **DESPITE**
WHAT YOU TELL FOLKS WITH LAWS AND
AMENDMENTS YOU STUFF DOWN FOLKS' THROATS
FOR NUCLEAR POWER IS STILL IN EXISTENCE
AND **WASTE** IS THE MONSTER THAT
COMES WITH THIS HORROR AND DISEASE WILL
BE LAID AT THE COURT, LAID ON THE JUDGES
AND THOSE THAT COMMAND THEM, POLITICIANS
INDUSTRIALISTS, ALL THOSE OF GREED, THIS IS
THE FILTH THAT YOU JUDGES PROTECT RICH
FOLKS AND INDUSTRY. BIG BUSINESS, MONEY
POOR FOLKS IS JUST LIKE DEAD WOOD TO THE COURT
THEY'RE CUT UP AND BURNT UP AND SET OUT

AS TRASH YOU **JUDGES** AINT GET AWAY WITH NONE OF THIS STUFF YOU HURT PEOPLE IN THE NAME OF INDUSTRY EVER SINCE THAT EXISTENCE OF INDUSTRY, MONOPOLY EXPLOITATION, YOU HAVE JAILED POOR FOLKS DESPITE INNOCENCE, FREED RICH FOLKS DESPITE GUILT, COLLECTED YOUR SALARY FROM BOTH AND MADE POOR FOLKS PAY THE BULK OF IT, THIS SYSTEM IS ROTTEN FROM END TO END, IT HAS BEEN **SET UP BY THE RICH TO BENEFIT THE RICH** GIVE THEM MUCH MORE THAN THE POOR FOLKS THEY HIRE, ACCESSING THE RICH AND INSULTING, ENSLAVING EXECUTING THE POOR, FOR WHEN YOU ARE OWNED BY A SUBJECT YOU ARE A SLAVE OF THAT SUBJECT, YOU CAN'T EAT IN THE SYSTEM UNLESS YOU WORK FOR THE SYSTEM, YOU CAN'T WORK IN THE SYSTEM UNLESS YOU'VE GOT CREDENTIALS FROM THE SYSTEM, **INCLUDING THE JUDGES**, YOU JUDGES ARE SLAVES OF THE ESTABLISHED THIEVES AND SINCE THE ESTABLISHED THIEVES CONTROL THE MONEY THEY MADE EVERYBODY ELSE SLAVES TO THEM, ALONG WITH YOU JUDGES, LAWYERS, POLITICIANS. THIS IS THEIR SYSTEM. IT IS BUILT ON MONEY. FOLKS CAN'T GET NOTHING IN THIS SYSTEM WITHOUT MONEY **AND CAN'T GET MONEY WITHOUT GOING THROUGH THOSE** **(3)** THAT CONTROL IT

JOHN AFRICA
TAUGHT HIS
PEOPLE HOW
TO LIVE IN A SIMPLE
NATURAL WAY
HIS PEOPLE FORMED
A GROUP CALLED MOVE
IT IS THEIR STORY
WE TELL TODAY

TODAY EIGHT PEOPLE ARE STILL IN JAIL
FOR WHAT WAS DONE 20 YEARS AGO
IN PHILADELPHIA. WE INVITE YOU NOW
TO LEARN MOVE'S STORY
AND SEE OUR SHOW

WE PROTECT AND
HONOR LIFE IN ALL
ITS MANY FORMS
AND TYPES AND
BIRDS AND TREES AND
WEDS AND RIVERS AND
WINDS AND THUNDERSTORMS
LAW LIKE LIFE
WE SAY IS NATURAL
AND CAN NOT BE
MADE BY MAN
TO STRANGLE LIFE
WEIL OF OATHROW
IT IF WE CAN







7

FROM ALL THAT
DWELL BELOW
LET CREATIONS
PRAISE ARISE





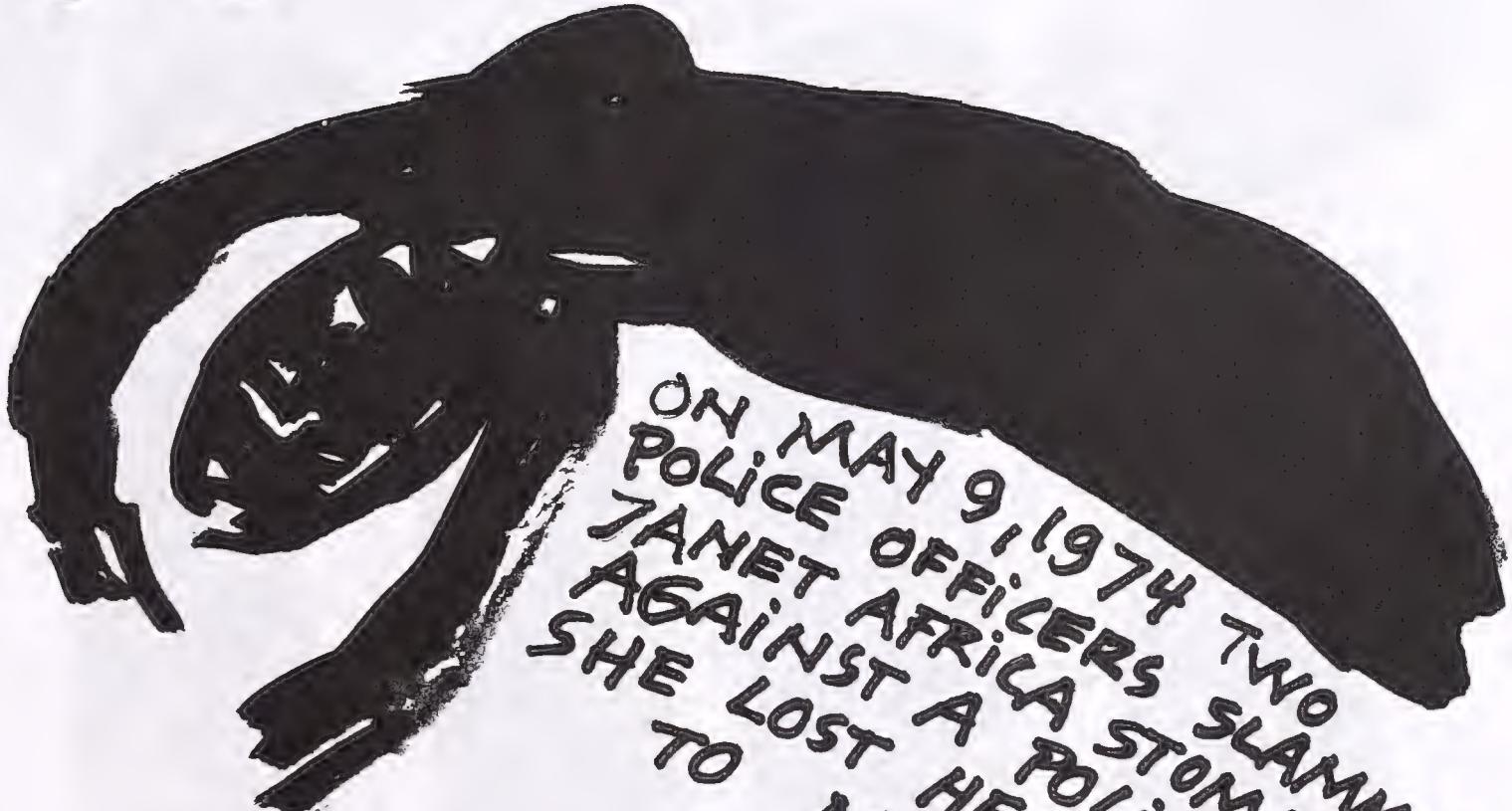
Down with
THE SYSTEM!
Don't believe
THE SYSTEM!
JUST BECAUSE
it's LEGAL
DOESN'T MAKE
IT RIGHT!





YOU THINK YOU CAN iGNORE
THE LAW AND HAVE THINGS
ALWAYS YOUR OWN WAY
I'LL TEACH YOU WHO IS RUNNING
AND IN THE END YOU WILL OBEY

THINGS



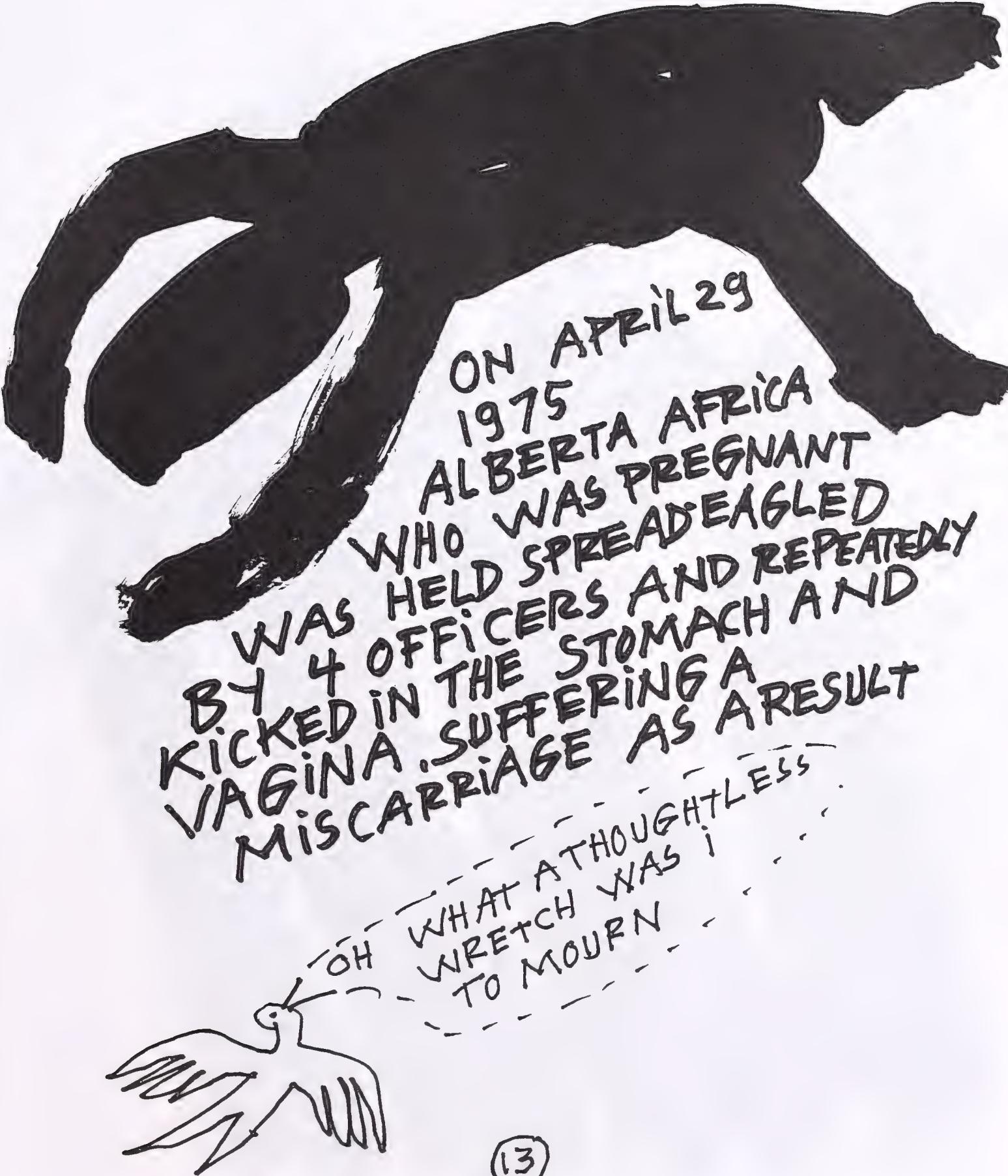
ON MAY 9, 1974 TWO
POLICE OFFICERS SLAMMED
JANET AFRICA STOMACH-FIRST
AGAINST A POLICE CAR.
SHE LOST HER BABY DUE
TO MISCARRIAGE

OH WHAT A THOUGHTLESS
WRETCH WAS I
TO MOURN



THE WORK OF
MOVE is
REVOLUTION
WE AGITATE
WE DON'T
WE SHOW HOW THE
SYSTEM HURTS THE
WE EXPOSE
THE SYSTEMS
LIES



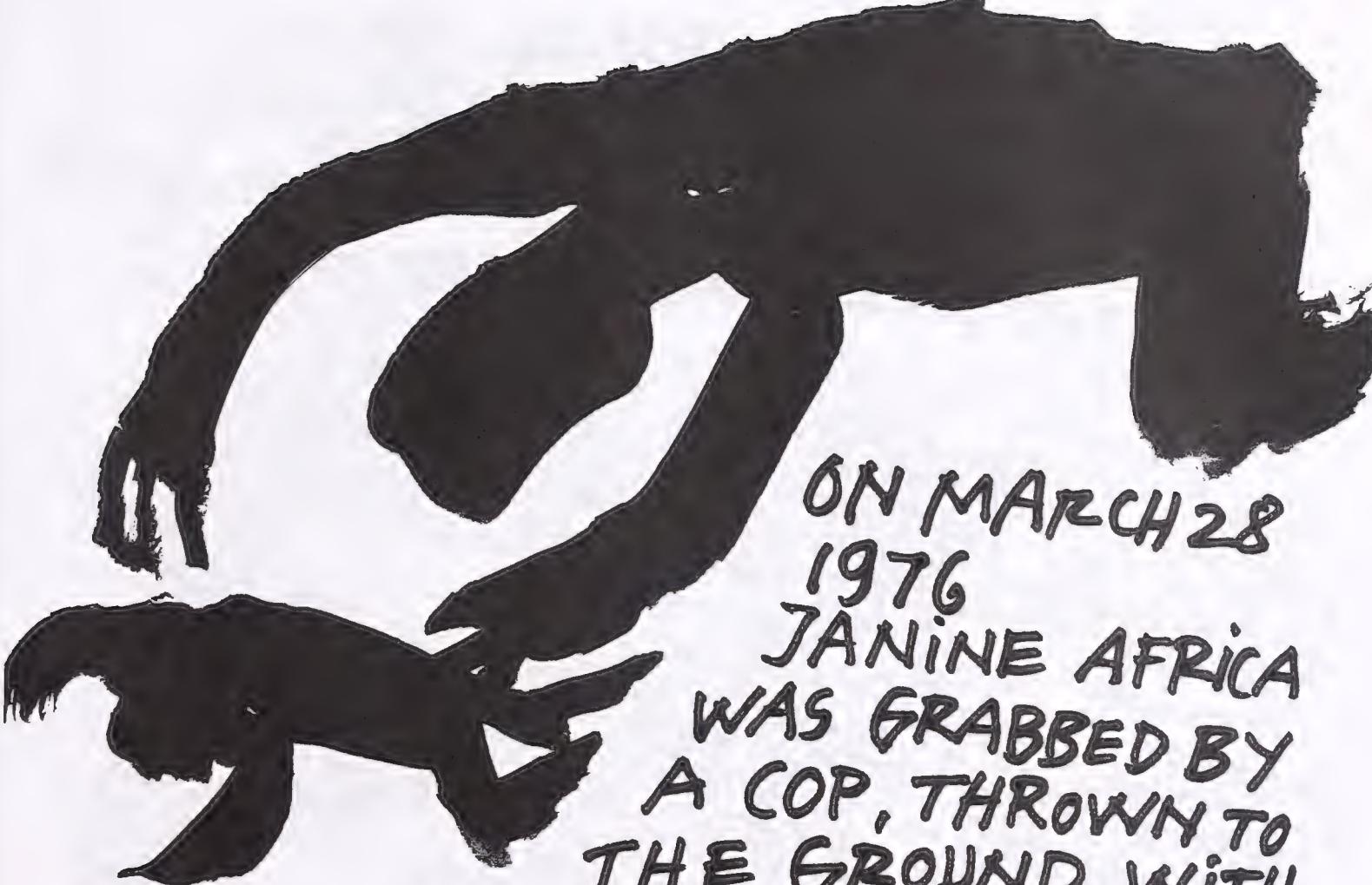


ON APRIL 29
1975
ALBERTA AFRICA
WHO WAS PREGNANT
WAS HELD SPREADEAGLED
BY 4 OFFICERS AND REPEATEDLY
KICKED IN THE STOMACH AND
VAGINA. SUFFERING A
MISCARRIAGE AS A RESULT

OH WHAT A THOUGHTLESS
WRETCH WAS
TO MOURN

THE WORK
OF MURKIE
IS REVOLUTION
WE AGITATE
WE
DON'T COMPLY





ON MARCH 28
1976
JANINE AFRICA
WAS GRABBED BY
A COP, THROWN TO
THE GROUND WITH
3-WEEK OLD LIFE AFRICA IN
HER ARMS AND STOMPED.
TILL SHE WAS NEARLY UNCONSCIOUS.
THE BABY'S SKULL WAS CRUSHED



OH WHAT A THOUGHTLESS
KRETCH WAS I
TO MOURN + MURMUR + REPINE
TO SEE THE WICKED PLACED ON HIGH
IN PRIDE + ROBES OF HONOR SHINE



NOW THE POLICE ARE IN
CONTROL - ALL OUTRIES
HAVE BEEN HUSHED.
NONE WILL DARE TO RISE AGAINST
US
ALL RESISTANCE SHALL BE CRUSHED

WE DON'T CONDONE EVERYTHING MOVE DOES, BUT
WE DON'T THINK THE POLICE SHOULD MOVE IN + REPRESS
THEM LIKE THEY HAVE. THE POLICE PRESENCE IN THE
NEIGHBORHOOD IS MAKING THE ATMOSPHERE WORSE.
PEOPLE COULD GET KILLED



NEIGHBOR 1

MOVE'S LIFESTYLE IS MAKING THE NEIGHBORHOOD
UNINHABITABLE. THEY LEAVE GARBAGE ON THE
GROUND WHICH ATTRACTS RATS. THEIR DOGS ARE
NOT LEASHED OR INOCULATED. THEY DON'T SEND
THEIR CHILDREN TO SCHOOL + THEY HAVE GUNS

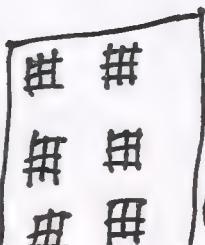
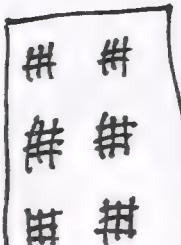


NEIGHBOR 2

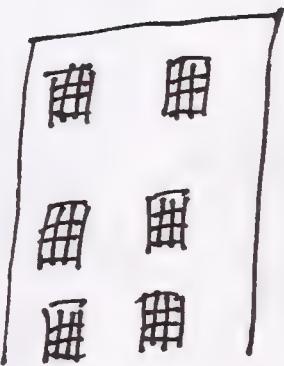
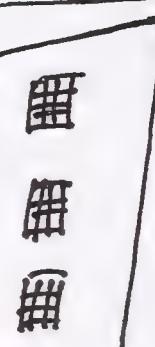
THERE'S BEEN AN ATTACK ON THE BLACK
COMMUNITY. WE WENT TO A PHONE, BUT WHO
ARE YOU GUNNA CALL? AINT NOBODY TO CALL BECAUSE
THE COPS ARE THE ONES DOING IT TO US. SO THAT
LEAVES ONLY 1 ALTERNATIVE: TO DEFEND
OURSELVES. WE CAN'T CALL ANYBODY BUT
OURSELVES

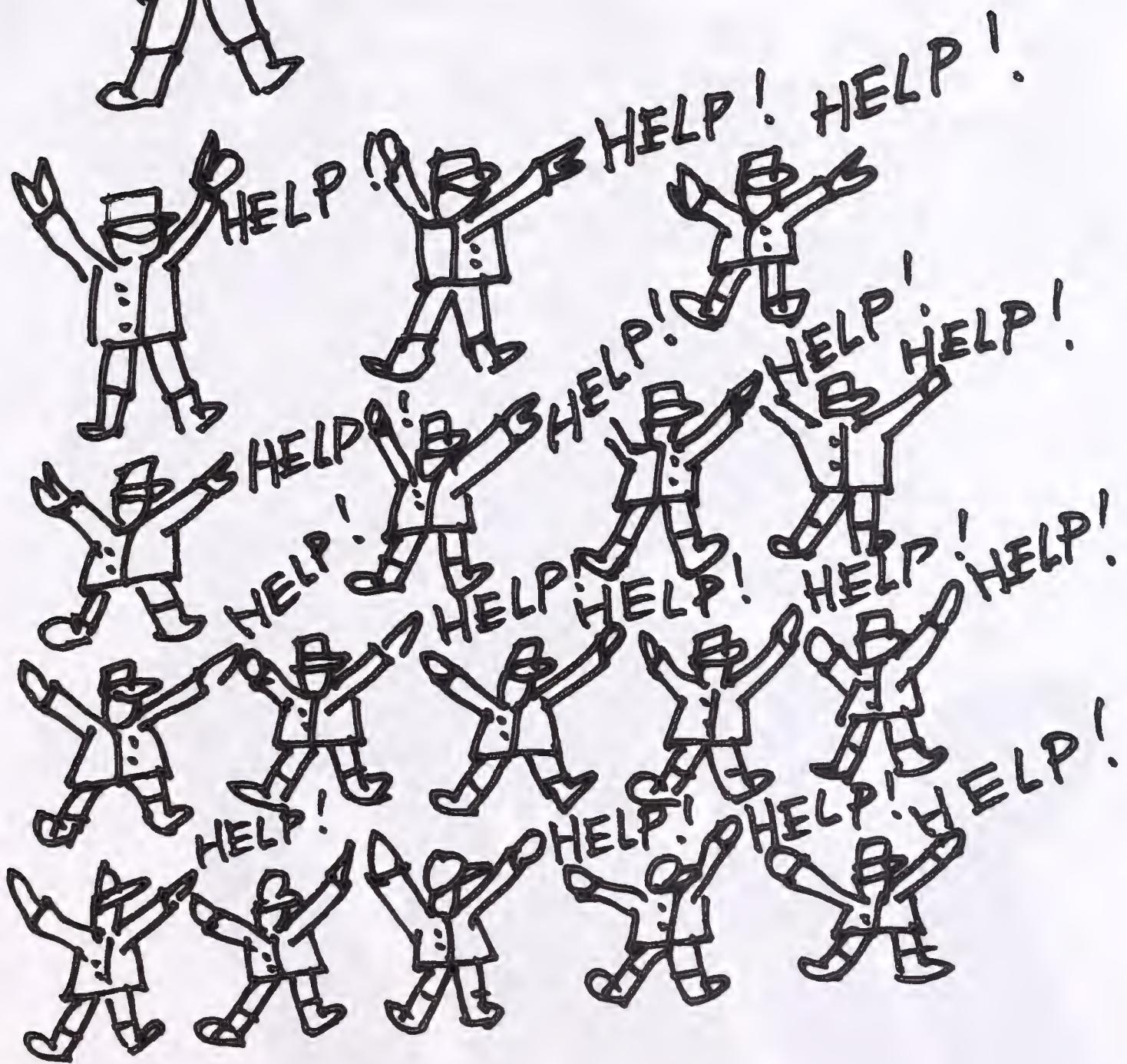
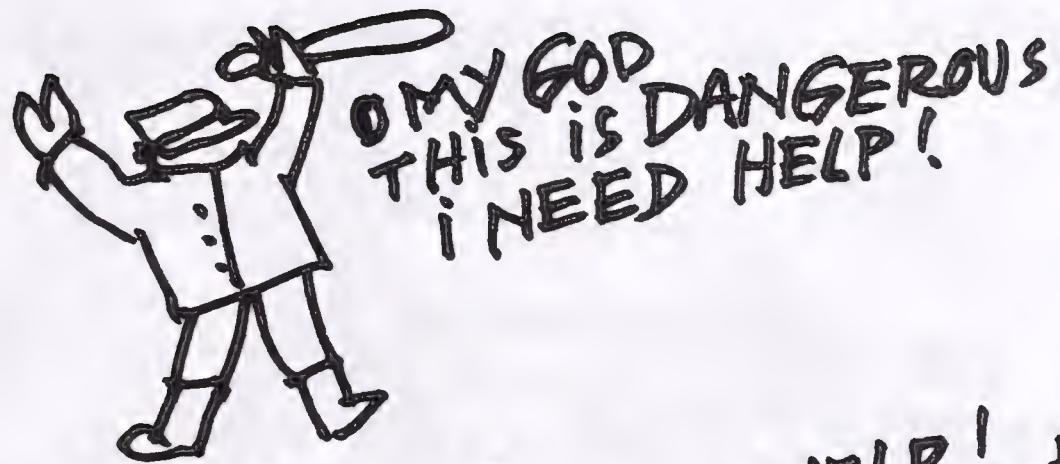


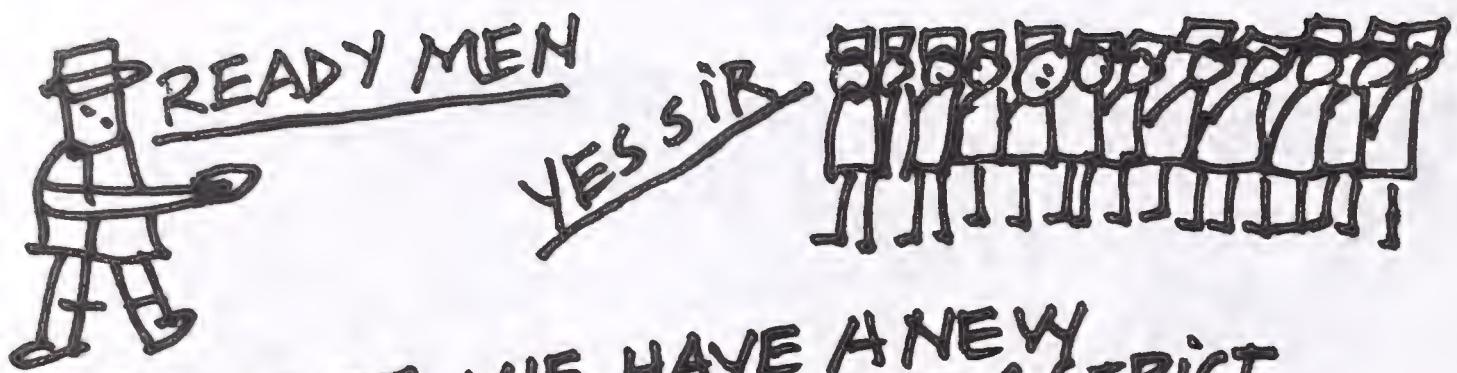
NEIGHBOR 3



(16)







HERE WE HAVE A NEW
COURT OR DER FOR A STRICT
POLICE BLOCKADE. MOVE WILL
HAVE NO FOOD NOR WATER
THEY WILL WISH THEY HAD
OBEYED

WE DO NOT
ACCEPT
THIS ORDER
WE WILL HOLD
OUT WHILE WE
CAN LIKE LIFE
WE SAY IS
NATURAL
AND CANNOT
BE MADE
BY MAN





READY MEN. YES SIR
AIM YES SIR FIRE
YES SIR BANG BANG
BANG BANG BANG
BANG BANG BANG

TODAY WHEN
THREATENED BY
EXTREMISTS TO WIDE
COMPLAINT AS
IN RESPONSE TO
POLICEMEN ACTED WITH
PRECISION AND
RESTRANT

MEDIA

I ACCUSE YOU
OF THE KILLING
OF A PHILADELPHIA
POLICEMAN

MEN!



ARREST
THEM

YES SIR

DISTRICT ATTORNEY



WHEN YOU REPORTERS
STIR THINGS UP
TO FIND OUT WHO DID WHAT
AND WHERE
YOU JUST CAUSE US LOTS OF TROUBLE
TO THE POLICE IT ISN'T FAIR

ONE QUESTION
PLEASE

MAYOR



THESE MOVE PEOPLE JUST CAUSE
PROBLEMS THEY ANTAGONIZE THE RICH
THEY SIMPLY MUST BE GOTTEN RID OF
AND I'LL BE GLAD TO PULL THE SWITCH

PLEASE SIR
DO YOU HAVE
A COMMENT?

JUDGE



YOU DO NOT STAND UP WHEN
I ENTER FROM MY RULES
YOU'RE NOT EXEMPT
YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS
I PRONOUNCE YOU IN CONTEMPT
NOW WHAT IS THE EVIDENCE IN THIS CASE?

(21)

THIRD PHILADELPHIA
COURT OF APPEALS
JUDGE ABEL GANCE
PRESIDING

ALL RISE

SUN MOON AND STARS
CONVEY THY PRAISE
ROUND THE WHOLE
EARTH AND NEVER
STAND

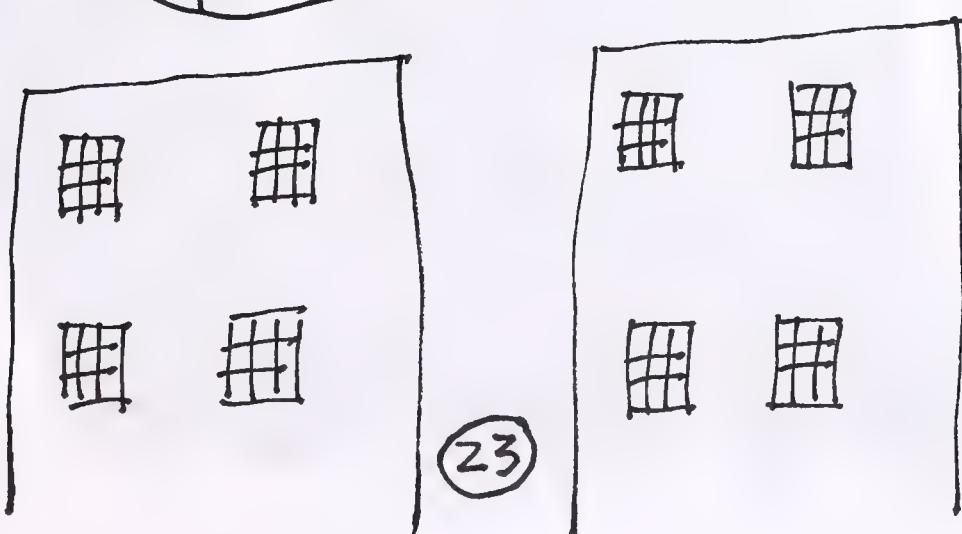


ALTHOUGH DESTROYING THE EVIDENCE OF A CRIME is illegal

POLICE BULLDOZERS DESTROYED THE MOVE HOUSE, ITS FOUNDATIONS AND THE TREES IN THE YARD. NO EFFORTS WERE MADE TO PRESERVE THE CRIMESCENE



ALTHOUGH ALL
EVIDENCE HAS BEEN
DESTROYED
TO ME THE REAL TRUTH
NOW APPEARS
IFIND YOU GUILTY OF
ALL CHARGES
YOU'LL SERVE FROM 30
TO 100 YEARS



IN NATURAL
LAW MOVE TRUSTS
ALL PRAISES TO
THE ORDER OF
LIFE. THE
PRESSENCE OF
TRUTH IS FINAL
LONG LIVE MOVE
LONG LIVE REVOLUTION
LONG LIVE THE
POWER THAT
PULLS THINGS
TOGETHER



IN 1983 MOVE
THEIR CHILDREN
ROW HOUSE ON
ON DEC. 25
MOVE
LOUD-
SPEAKERS
MOUNTED

HOUSE TO PROTEST
IMPRISONMENT
MOVE MEMBERS
OSAGE AVE
RESIDENTS
SOUGHT
MOVE
NEIG OUT
MOVE BEGAN
FORTIFY THEIR
HOME

MEMBERS AND
LIVED IN A
OSAGE AVE
1983
USED
ON THEIR
THE
OF
SOME

GET
OF
OOD
TO
THE

ON MAY 11
OBTAINED
FOR MOVE
ON CHARGES
CONDUCT
THREATS.
DAY

POLICE EVACUA
ON THE MORNING
POLICE AND
ARMED WITH A
MILITARY WEA
AN ASSAULT ON
THERE WERE
6 CHILDREN
THE MOVE
REFUSED TO
POLICE FIRED
ROUNDS OF
AT THE HOUSE

1985 POLICE
ARREST WARRANTS
MEMBERS
OF DISORDERLY
AND TERRORIST
THE NEXT

FED THE BLOCK
OF MAY 13
FIREMEN
VAST ARRAY OF
PONRY PREPARED
THE MOVE HOUSE
7 ADULTS AND
INSIDE. WHEN
MEMBERS
SURRENDER
OVER 10,000
AMMUNITION
THEN A

STATE POLICE HELICOPTER
DROPPED A BOMB CONTAINING
4 POUNDS OF C-4 EXPLOSIVE
ON THE ROOF IGNITING
A FIRE WHICH OFFICIALS
ALLOWED TO BURN. MOVE

MEMBERS TRIED TO
FLEE BUT WERE MET WITH
POLICE GUNFIRE. RAMONA AFRICA
AND A CHILD BIRDY AFRICA ESCAPED
THE FIRE AND WERE ARRESTED.
6 ADULTS AND 5 CHILDREN WERE
KILLED. THE BLAZE SPREAD
BURNING DOWN 60 HOMES.
NO POLICE - MAN OR PUBLIC
OFFICIAL WAS EVER INDICTED
FOR THE DEATHS AND
DESTRUCTION

TRYING TO
WERE MET WITH
FIRE. RAMONA AFRICA
BIRDY AFRICA ESCAPED
WERE ARRESTED.
5 CHILDREN WERE
BLAZE SPREAD
60 HOMES.
MAN OR PUBLIC
EVER INDICTED
DEATHS AND

GIVE A LONG TIME HEARD
THAT THERE WILL BE A
JUDGEMENT THAT DAY
JUDGEMENT WILL BE
IN THAT DAY



On March 13, 1998, Merle Africa died under suspicious circumstances in the Cambridge Springs, Pennsylvania Prison. She was one of the nine M.O.V.E. members imprisoned since 1978 for the third degree murder of a Philadelphia policeman and serving a life sentence.

In the United States, third degree murder carries a ten-to-twenty year penalty, not the thirty-to-one-hundred years which the MOVE members received.

More information may be obtained by writing:

M.O.V.E.

P.O. Box 19709

Philadelphia PA 19143

and ordering their booklet "Twenty-five Years on the MOVE".

Bread & Puppet Theater created a parading passion play about the M.O.V.E. family in the summer of 1997 and presented it at Our Domestic Resurrection Circus in Glover, Vermont in August, 1997. About sixty performers and singer-musicians participated. In February, 1998 the show was named "City of Brotherly Love Passion Play" and reworked to fit inside spaces. Then in March, April and May it travelled to Goddard College, Vermont; Rutgers, New Jersey; Northeastern U., Boston, and Theater for the New City, NYC.

Sources for texts used in "City of Brotherly Love Passion Play" are: verses by Burt Porter of Glover, Vermont;

speech by John Africa, delivered in Philadelphia in 1977 and sent to the judges of the world;

"Twenty-five Years on the MOVE" booklet (see above);

"The Sacred Harp", Sacred Harp Publishing Co., Bremen, Georgia, 1991 ed. (American shape-note hymns first compiled in 1844), using the songs:
Bridgewater, text Isaac Watts, music L. Edson, 1782
Greenwich, text Isaac Watts, music D. Read, 1785
Stratfield, text Isaac Watts, music E. Goff, 1786
The Great Day, text anonymous, music J.P. Reese, 1859.

Peter Schumann directed the show and made the pictures here.



MOVE Passion Play in Glover, Vermont. Photo by Ron Simon

Verses @ Burt Porter 1998
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ES/PM